

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 5-7 are pending in this application. Claim 2 is canceled.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Linnartz (U.S. Patent 6,209,092) in view of Hayashi et al. (EP 967783 A2) and Bersson (U.S. Patent 6,081,897). Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Linnartz in view of McCready ("How to Register Your Copyright"). Claims 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Linnartz, Hayashi, Bersson and Ryan.

In the present invention, "each piece of input data represents a respective audio file and the plurality of pieces of input data are grouped into album programs." (Claims 1 and 6) Moreover, "each album program and each piece of input data is encrypted using different encryption keys." (Claims 1 and 6) As shown in Figure 5, the present invention discloses individually encrypting each song (music program) with a different encryption key (Key-1 to Key-12) and then encrypting the album A3 (grouping the songs) with another encryption key (A Key-3). Applicants assert that none of the cited references discloses the use of different encryption keys for each song and an album grouping the songs. Accordingly, for at least this reason, any combination of Linnartz, Hayashi, Bersson, McCready, and Ryan fails to meet all of the recited limitations and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending

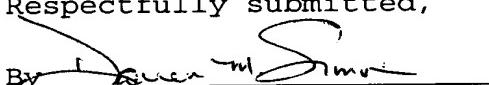
claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Dated: August 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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